

## Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, January 1, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR. 1

1 The first and second paragraphs of this letter, and the last sentence of the third, were published by Blair in the *Globe* and reprinted in *Niles's Register*, LXVII. 321.

Hermitage, January 1, 1845.

My dear Mr. Blair, I cannot forbear, on this first day of the year 1845 to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, altho greatly afflicted and debilitated. My whole family Join me, in our kind salutations to you and yours, and the joys of the season. May you all live to see many more happy Newyeers.

I observe that you have before congress two many Joint resolutions for the reannexation of Texas. This augurs want of unanimity in the democracey upon this great national and important subject. I have just received from Major A. J. Donelson a letter dated at Washington, Texas, from which I would infer, that if congress expects to reannex Texas, to the United States, she must act spedily and promptly, or it will be found to be beyond her grasp. The rejection of the treaty by the senate, has given offense to some, a handle to others to press the liberal propositions of england upon the Texians—with the splendid view of Texas independent, growing into a vast republic, that in time will embrace not 0375 351 only the limits of Texas, but all the domain once Montazumas. This view to ambitious aspirants, added to the guarantees of England of her independence and loan of large sums for ten years based upon a treaty that English manufacture shall be free of duty is gaining a party in Texas. Genl. Houston still is the leading Star, and his influence

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alone can be calculated upon to resist the present influence of England, and its increasing power. How long the present influence of England can be successfully resisted in Texas is becoming a very questionable matter. I have taken a view of the whole ground, giving to all information its proper weight; and I say to you that unless congress acts upon this subject speedily, Texas will be beyond her grasp and lost to the united states forever, except regained by the sword. What will be the situation of our country with British manufactories introduced duty free into Texas—comment is useless. I hazard nothing I think, in saying, that if the present congress does not act promptly upon this subject, the next, under Pokes administration, will not have the power—the consent of Texas cannot be obtained. Great Britain will have laid the Lyons paw upon her, and bound it by treaty. Should Col. Bentons Bill be passed it will be viewed as a great insult to Texas and be promptly rejected and that would give the British influence, at once, a preponderance, that would swallow up all the american influence now in Texas.

I see Col. Benton has been instructed by his Legislature, which affords him an open and honorable door to put himself erect once more with the democracy, and I hope his good sense on reflection will induce him to seize upon it. The Col. can truly say that him and his constituents perfectly agree upon the reannexion of Texas—but his constituents differ with him on the conditions Texas ought to be annexed, therefore agreeing with them in the substance he will with pleasure comply with their wishes. If he will do this, take up Douglasses Joint resolutions 2 he will carry them, save Texas to the united states, and restore himself to the confidence of the democracy. Should he fail to do this, our friend Col. Benton is lost with the democracy forever. I regret to be compelled to say that he has lost that high confidence that he did possess in the democracy. The way hinted at and success in annexing Texas, will again place him erect. I hope he will adopt it. In conclusion, I say to you, and I think time will verify it, That if this congress does not pass the Joint resolution for annexing Texas, Texas is lost to the united states, untill regained by the sword, when every member of congress who has by their conduct caused it, will feel the bitter and united curses of every true american in this union. I am exhausted, but from

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Major A. J. Donelsons letter, and other sources, altho feeble, I could not forbear to say this much to you, that you might communicate to my friends the danger of loosing Texas. May god bless you and yours,

2 Of Dec. 10, 1844.